

REMARKS

The abstract previously provided in the amendment filed October 17, 2001 is attached on a separate sheet, as required by the Examiner.

Substitutes of sheets 2/16, 4/16, and 8/16 are provided, including amendments previously approved by the Examiner.

The specification is amended to correct an obvious typographical error in the specification and to clarify that the present application is a continuation of International Application No. PCT/AU98/00602. Applicants note that in the office action mailed March 31, 2003, the Examiner stated "Acknowledgement is made of applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) based upon an application filed in Australia on 28 July 1998. A claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) cannot be based on said application, since the United States application was filed more than twelve months thereafter." Applicants respectfully claim priority under 35 U.S.C. 120, not under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). Such a priority claim under 35 U.S.C. 120 is permitted by 35 U.S.C. 365(c), which states "In accordance with the conditions and requirements of section 120 of this title, . . . a national application shall be entitled to the benefit of the filing date of a prior international application designating the United States." A priority claim under 35 U.S.C. 120 does not require the application to be filed within twelve months after the filing of the priority application.

The Examiner gives the reason for allowance as follows: "Claim 1, a strip lighting device comprises a single-piece elongate partially translucent housing, which covers LEDs being not visible when not activated and being substantially not distinguishable when activated and viewed from outside the housing. . . . The limitations discussed above are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record."

Applicants respectfully note that claim 1 recites only: "A strip lighting device which includes:

an elongate housing comprising a hollow enclosure with at least one opening, wherein said elongate housing is at least partially translucent and is a single piece of material having one or more cavities to receive said light sources;

a plurality of light sources arranged at intervals within said hollow enclosure; and

a fastener, separate from said elongate housing, for fastening said elongate housing to a surface;

wherein said housing overlies the plurality of light sources and diffuses, disperses, or scatters light emitted by the light sources such that individuals of the plurality of light sources are substantially not distinguishable when activated and viewed from outside said housing.”

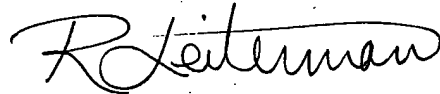
Claim 1 does not recite LEDs and does not recite that LEDs are not visible when not activated, contrary to what is stated in the Examiner’s reasons for allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions on this submission, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 382-0480.

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Respectfully submitted,



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